

point three



December 1974 7p



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The monthly
magazine of Toc H

December 1974

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Opinions expressed are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Front cover: Happy Christmas from the Editorial Staff and all at Headquarters.

Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment:

- 1 To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
- 2 To give personal service.
- 3 To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
- 4 To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points—to think fairly.

view point

Recapturing the vision

'This has been a superbly good week-end, a very happy and hopeful week-end,' said Ronnie Symons, a Vice-President of Toc H, at the Central Council. For me, and for many other councillors, members and staff to whom I spoke, this Central Council was thrilling and inspiring. I came away, having thoroughly enjoyed myself, feeling encouraged and heartened by the spirit of the gathering.

And why should we feel such optimism? Because over the week-end, together, we managed to recapture the vision of Toc H, the vision of our true purpose, of what we're really about. And we managed this, I think, because we have been forced, by our financial situation at least, to work out what are our essentials: what we really want Toc H to do, what is our ultimate goal. There was no doubt at the council and it was stated proudly by George Liddle, retiring Honorary Treasurer: 'to bring men and women to Jesus Christ'. George affirmed uncompromisingly, 'If we trim our sails to those who are

not prepared to come to Christ . . . the salt will have lost its savour and we will be unacceptable unto the Lord.'

By Saturday afternoon the council was relaxed and in good humour. We saw the light hearted perspective and several new councillors were encouraged to stand up and speak. Councillors for the most part achieved what Betty Cornick, Chairman of the meeting, had urged them to do: 'disagree in love'.

Not that there were many disagreements or rows. This council was mainly concerned with tying up the loose ends of *Strategy* and *Action for the Seventies*, and the storms of the past two years had largely blown over. The council did not formulate new policy of any momentous importance to Toc H. Rather, it confirmed its decisions of last year.

Yet out of this business came words of great inspiration, and the spirit was sound. There was a distinct note of optimism, reinforced by Ken Prideaux-Brune, the new Director, and by his conviction in the value of Toc H. The gathering was obviously united in supporting Ken and one could sense the unity of purpose which derived from this. There was an air of expectancy, as people look forward to see the results of the new

Regional Executive Committees and Councils.

We have lifted our eyes and see more clearly our task. Colin Campbell, member of staff in the South East, put it like this: 'I believe that like the children of Israel, after their weary sojourn, we are within sight of the promised land. You will remember that their leader was taken up into the heights and that the Lord pointed out: "As far as thou seest the land, it is thine." I believe that the Lord was saying then and is saying now: "There is no limit to the land that lies before you, but your vision."'

One note of caution. Empty idealism would be useless. We have seen a glimpse of the glorious task; it is much more difficult to execute it. Betty Cornick read us a letter from one of her friends, which is worth sharing: 'Maybe it would do us all good to remember to keep in the forefront of our minds that Toc H is a practical expression of the Christian life and that it is no good praying to work for God's Kingdom in the hearts of men unless we are also prepared to work for His Kingdom in our own lives.'

There is much work to do. Given the conviction, we can do it. Together, let us echo Ken Prideaux-Brune and say: 'Let's get this Movement moving again.'

S McW

Council 1974

Photos by Bob Broeder

New Appointments

The Council confirmed with unanimity the appointment of Ken Prideaux-Brune as Director of Toc H for a period of five years. Ken, as Betty Cornick, chairman of the meeting, said, is 'well-known and well-loved in Toc H'. Tom Gulliver, vice-chairman of the retiring executive, added: 'I am quite sure we could not have a better person for Director at this time in our history.'

Gerry Ashfield was unanimously accepted as Treasurer for a period of four years. Gerry has been a committed member of Toc H for 45 years and, as a financial expert on investment, has served the Finance Committee for 27 years.

Betty spoke of the retiring Director, Sandy Giles, as 'a greatly valued friend'. We echo her wishes in hoping that Sandy 'will take happiness and friendships into a long and happy retirement'.

George Liddle, retiring Honorary Treasurer, has been appointed as a Trustee of Toc H, 'as a small token of recognition of his long and faithful service to the Movement'. (Betty Cornick). George is automatically a trustee of the Tubby Clayton Memorial Fund, where his financial expertise is greatly needed. 'A man of deep conviction and a man of great courage,' commented Betty Cornick. 'It may be that the future will reveal to us more than we know now about the extent and depth of his achievements.'

The Council unanimously confirmed the reappointment of the Rev Bob Knight as Headquarters Padre for a period of one year; and of Gilbert Francis as General Secretary for a period of three years.

Financial Policy

Tom Gulliver, vice-chairman of the retiring Central Executive Committee, explained how and why its members had decided, last January, on an expansionist financial policy and why they had agreed to increase the number of staff in the regions. A spirited debate followed Tom's explanations. Then the Council confirmed this policy of expansion.

The CEC decided to spend more money than has been usual in recent years, by employing more staff, simply so that the Movement will grow.

We are now spending more of our capital than we have done over the past few years: 5 per cent of our assets per year instead of $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The CEC took this decision because the Central Council had made it clear, by accepting *Strategy and Action for the Seventies*, that it wanted the Movement to expand.

If Toc H is to extend its influence and to share its insights, 'it requires a strong, committed membership. The CEC is con-

vinced that to build up the Movement . . . we need more staff. An increase in staff would provide the leadership needed to enable growth to take place.' (Tom Gulliver).

'Accepting that, the question then becomes, not, "can we afford more staff?" but, "can we afford *not* to have more staff?"' The financial policy really becomes a staffing policy. The answer is decided by one's convictions in Toc H. Tom reminded us that, 'from time to time Tubby used to remind us that before Toc H had a constitution it had convictions. He might equally well have said that before Toc H had a bank balance it had convictions. We now have a constitution and a bank balance. Let us beware we do not lose our convictions.'

Implications

We have to realise that 'if extra staff do not result in increased membership giving, then Toc H has only a limited time left to it'. We cannot 'sit back and wait for staff to be appointed, and solve all our problems. This is a responsibility laid upon us all, staff and non-staff alike, to build a strong Toc H'. (Tom Gulliver).

George Liddle fervently supported Tom in his challenge to all of us to build Toc H. 'Toc H is in danger of going all out to grasp the valuable second-class prize of social service and of missing the first-class prize of our own limited vision of the Kingdom of God. A large staff of sociologists may be necessary for the second-class prize, but I am convinced that it is the totally committed membership of Toc H who will carry that vision to the young of today, as it was carried to us when we were young. The decline of Toc H is the measure of our failure as members to look to the future. Too many of us are content to keep ourselves warm at the flickering flame, expecting that it will last for our time and caring little beyond that.'

Don Lockhart, CEC member, pointed out that 'where Toc H is failing is that we are not producing our staff from within the membership'. In the early days every member of staff came up through the membership.

Finance Administration

Following Council's decision in 1973 to allow regions greater responsibility for their own affairs, regions will now be responsible for raising their income from within the region, and for deciding how to spend the money they raise.

This obviously places a responsibility on the membership to raise the money for any Toc H activity they want to do.

The Family Purse will receive income from investments and legacies and will meet headquarters expenditure, overseas grants, conferences, contingencies and reserve items.

Money will be allocated from the Family Purse to pay for staff salaries, pensions and staff houses. Money estimated for this purpose must not be spent on anything else. The region will have to pay for staff travelling and subsistence, and all other regional expenditure.

Each year the central Planning Committee will discuss with each region its objectives and achievements and will retain responsibility for deploying resources across regional boundaries, if necessary.

Top: Tom Gulliver, retiring Vice-Chairman of the CEC, explains financial policy

Centre: George Liddle, retiring Hon Treasurer, was appointed as a Trustee of Toc H

Below: Ken Prideaux-Brune in discussion with members of the West Midlands and South Wales Regional Executive Committee



Council 1974

Annual Accounts Deeds of Covenant

George Liddle emphasised that while membership giving has encouragingly increased from £27,000 to £31,000 over the last year, the amount recovered from tax on Deeds of Covenant has declined by £5,000. George appealed that 'where possible you make your contribution under Deed of Covenant. It costs you nothing.'

The Tubby Clayton Memorial Fund

'The Fund has reached nearly £29,000', reported Sir James Brown, senior trustee of the Fund. An appeal to City companies and institutions by the chairman, Sir Eric Drake, raised £8,000 of that £29,000.

The Fund will be used to finance new projects and the trustees are awaiting applications from regions.

Annual Report

Several representatives from the former Midland Region said that they were distressed by the 'black picture' of their region painted in the Annual Report. Mary Foster (Leicester) said: 'Some of these comments are valid, but most are not.' John Cutt (CEC), from Peterborough, commented: 'Leicester has gone through a difficult period . . . but I do know the staff are now particularly keen. . . . We will restore Toc H to its rightful place soon.'

Colin Campbell questioned what efforts we were making to help people in Northern Ireland. 'Anyone who knows of Toc H objectives must wonder what we're doing about our biggest opportunity ever.' It transpired that various Toc H branches and districts are giving holidays to children from Northern Ireland.



Sir James Brown, senior Trustee of the Tubby Clayton Memorial Fund

Bridge-building to the Churches

David Pope (Swindon) urged the Movement, and its Central Executive, 'to consider ways of bringing to established churches an understanding of Toc H'. He and his seconder, Vic Chittenden (S E Hants, N Hants), were concerned because 'the message of what Toc H is really about is not getting across as it should'.

'Ministers generally do not know about Toc H any more than the milkman; and I often think the milkman may be more use to us!' volunteered one councillor.

Vic Chittenden suggested that Toc H and the established churches need each other. 'Toc H needs the special guidance of the established churches and the established churches are in desperate need of the peculiar Christian experience that Toc H has to offer.'

David Pope called for publicity material, and Peg Guile (Huddersfield) stressed that *Point Three* could be well used in local churches.

[Editor's note: All branches! Please consider taking an extra copy of *Point Three* for your local library or church. It makes a

good talking point and it's full of Toc H.]

After warnings from several staff that we must not limit our horizons or our conception of 'building friendships', the motion (in amended form) was carried.

Regional Representation on the Central Executive Committee

The CEC asked the Council for its views on how regions should be represented on the CEC and also for the authority to 'take whatever steps are necessary to ensure such representation'. It proposed that where a region was not already represented, the Regional Chairman should be invited to attend, for the period 1974-75.

The CEC's main concern was that regionalisation should not fragment or destroy the Family.

Harry Brier (CEC, Chairman N E Region), seconding the motion, felt that if each region could nominate one representative for the CEC, it would feel 'involved in the decision-making at the centre and would feel part of one Movement'. Ralph Thorne (CEC, Chairman, North West and North Wales Region) supported this idea, because it would 'improve communications'. 'It is difficult for the CEC or its sub-committees to know what is happening locally, if someone who knows something about it is not present.'

Johnnie Macmillan (North West staff) endorsed the idea that regional nominations would make for greater unity.

'Staff' can no longer be expected to represent regions', commented Sandy Giles. They could provide information, but it should be up to members to represent the region's viewpoint.

Don Lockhart posed the question: 'If Regional Councils are responsible bodies, could we consider a much smaller CEC?'

This proposal was taken up by the new Director, Ken Prideaux-Brune, who pointed out that 'the new CEC is going to have to re-think its sub-committee pattern. Some of what is done at the centre will have to be done at regional level.'

Right (l to r): Vic Chittenden (SE Hants, N Hants) and David Pope (Swindon) urged us to 'bring to established churches an understanding of Toc H'



Left: Hard talking between sessions: Peter East, Warden of Talbot House, Tower Hill, with two other wardens, Bill Brittan and John Burgess



Right: 'Two lumps, please'

Council 1974

District Executive Committees

Rose Coates (Crewe and North Staffs) proposed a motion: 'that existing Districts should be free to choose whether to continue after 31 March 1975 with the present forms of District Team, or to adopt the proposals in paragraph 3/3 of *Action for the Seventies*'. Rose was concerned that 'what is good for nine-tenths of the Movement is not always in the best interests of the other one-tenth' and that a District Team that was working well should be allowed to continue.

Rose received support from several councillors who got to their feet, but eventually the motion was defeated.

Reg Peters (Abingdon) stated that there was nothing in *Action for the Seventies* to prevent a similar gathering of members as at the old District Team; and *Action* gave positive encouragement to annual meetings of the whole district. The DEC is designed to 'separate out the administrators from the doers. We don't benefit from having people coming to the District Team and reporting back on business.'

The Rev 'Polly' Perkins (S E staff) affirmed that branches can be represented on the Development Team, so that you can have the same assembly as at the old District Team. 'You get more work done with five people in someone's house than with 30 people arguing all evening over business.'

The Council policy is that all Districts should have introduced District Executive Committees by 31 March 1975.

Election of Central Executive Committee

The Central Executive remains largely unchanged. Janet Rauch comes back this year and two new members were elected: Mary Edwards, retiring Central Councillor, and Arthur Frymann, Notts & Derby Area Chairman and now on the Mid-Eastern Regional Executive. Good luck to them in their new offices.

Retiring from the Executive are Tim Hulbert, who was warmly thanked from the Chair for his hard work on both *Strategy* and *Action for the Seventies*; Harry Mills, who has become the Marks and Properties Adviser; and Marcia Nicholson, who is becoming more involved with Regional responsibilities.

Also retiring was the Central Executive's Vice-Chairman, Tom Gulliver, and Betty Cornick thanked him for his great help



The Hon Angus Ogilvy, Vice-Patron of Toc H, visited our London office to give his good wishes to Sandy Giles, retiring Director, and to Ken Prideaux-Brune, our new Director Photo: Sport & General



Sorting out the diary: Sue Cumming, Arthur Frymann and Norman Brew from the Mid-Eastern Region. Arthur has been elected to the CEC



Novice and old hand: Bryn Chappell, from South Lincolnshire, here at Council for the first time, chats to Ronnie Symons, Vice-President and past Chairman of the Council

and support over the years they had worked together.

Richard Roberts from Manchester and Reg Coates from Chippenham have been co-opted on to the CEC for one year.

Housing for the elderly

Last year Council instructed the Central Executive to look into the possibility of providing 'secure and adequate living accommodation for elderly and lonely people, including members of Toc H'.

Sandy Giles reported that negotiations had been made with the Voluntary Service Housing Association to build flats at Crediton, but difficulties about planning permission had arisen.

Central Council Speaker

A proposal from Edwin Nutta¹¹ (Ashfield) that a speaker be included in the programme to give inspiration to the council was defeated. The CEC usually consider this option anyway.

Administration

Councillors will now receive council papers not later than six weeks before Council, so that they have a chance to discuss resolutions with their constituents. In peculiar circumstances, the Annual Report and Accounts may have to be sent within the six weeks.

New Badges

Diamond Jubilee year will see the introduction of new membership badges, using the symbol which was introduced in 1969. 'We want to make the most of our instant identity', said Janet Rauch. 'And, as a family, it is good to identify ourselves to others in the family', added Huw Gibbs (PRO). Tubby always asked that we should wear our badges proudly.

Diamond Jubilee

We saved the sparkling wine to the end. Doris Longley, Chairman of the Jubilee Committee,

treated us to a typical chat about next year's festivities.

'3,320 members have said they want to come to the London Festival week-end on 31 May-1 June 1975. So you'll have to be quick about applying for tickets. Application forms will be sent out on 10 January and they must be returned by Friday 21 February.'

'Hard times or great expectations?'

'Hard times or great expectations?' What can voluntary organisations reasonably expect of the future?

This was the theme of Tony Hart's address to the Central Council. Tony Hart is the head of the Voluntary Services Unit at the Home Office, which was set up to encourage voluntary activity and to represent voluntary organisations in Whitehall.

His talk succeeded in putting the problems of Toc H in perspective. We are facing the same difficulties as practically every other charity and, particularly, a shortage of money.

From the address, emerged the message that we will have to submit ourselves to continuous self-appraisal if we want to survive and flourish. We will have to 'prune for growth': cut out inefficiency, co-operate where we can save costs, select priorities. 'It is possible', said Tony Hart, 'that from these present difficulties could emerge a leaner but fitter voluntary sector, co-operating better with itself, and every bit as effective as it has been in the past.'

Small beginnings

We were reminded of the Movement's small beginnings when Lance Prideaux-Brunce, a President of Toc H, gave us a sketch of the early days at Mark I: when the rent was 35 shillings per week! 'I was book-keeper', he said. 'The butcher used to

deliver to Mr H Toc, and to someone like me saddled with such a long name, it was a great pleasure to say, "Send it to Mr Toc."'



Doris Longley outlined plans for the Jubilee Festival Week-end



First time on the CEC for Mary Edwards, seen here with her mother, Margaret Lawrence, Hon Staff

news point

News, cartoons, crosswords and photos (clear black and white, please) are always welcome. Please send to: Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Tuning in with HRS

Hospital Radio Swindon is one of Toc H's many pioneering ventures which eventually become large concerns involving various organisations in the community.

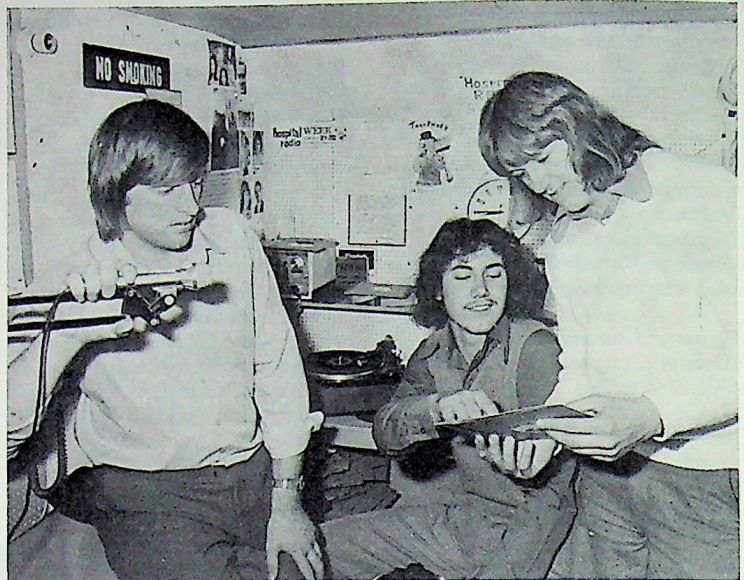
The radio service began 21 years ago when Toc H at Mark XVI in Swindon ran hospital football commentaries. In 1967 it was suggested that these broadcasts should be expanded to include music.

Toc H approached Keith Suter, then a teacher at Kingsdown School. Together with some of the pupils and Toc H he set up Studio One Six. They began broadcasting on 30 December 1967 and spent 66 hours on the air in the first six months. During the second six months this increased to 173 hours. Live shows were then introduced. There are now around 30 people involved including schoolteachers, painters and journalists.

18 months ago the service was renamed Hospital Radio Swindon. They now have anything up to 1,000 listeners at one time and they keep them in touch with local news and give them music, football and request shows. They even run an afternoon serial and have a news

service from Forest Radio. Outside broadcasts, perhaps in a theatre or at a concert, can mean a great deal of work and setting up beforehand, and this is why the service insists on a professional approach.

And what appeals to the workers on the HRS? Bob Goode, 21-year-old member of the original four, said, 'I do it because it is giving a good service to the people in hospital. They enjoy it, and I enjoy doing it.'



Tuning in with Hospital Radio Swindon
Photo: Wiltshire Newspapers

Seaford facelift

Seaford branch were concerned at the rusty appearance of the railings along the sea-front, which had been allowed to deteriorate and had become an eyesore. Accordingly, in July, the Secretary, John Minter, wrote to the Lewes District Council offering on behalf of the branch to paint a section of the railings, and the Council, welcoming the suggestion, supplied the paint, brushes, paint kettles, overalls and gloves. Members of the branch were subsequently seen on some of the fine summer evenings during August (yes, we did have some!) slapping paint on the railings and, it must be admitted, on themselves. Altogether about 250 yards of railings were covered. In an effort to attract more people to help, the Secretary recorded an interview with David Clitheroe on Radio Brighton, but as the broadcast was put out one morning at 6.50 am on the 'Coastwise' programme, it was not altogether surprising that there was no response from the public. The branch's efforts were, however, noticed by a local newspaper and the photograph shows some of the members at work.



Photo: *Evening Argus*, Brighton

Leg-up from Toc H



Photo: *Stourport News*

Cyril Hennessy was shattered. Lose your wife and you can hit the depths. An interest in photography and an introduction to Toc H gave Cyril a leg-up, and led him to make a unique contribution to the community.

The temporary Catholic Church, St Woolstan's, in Stourport-on-Severn, was about to be demolished prior to the building of a new church. Cyril decided that it would be of value to the community to make a film of the various stages of the removal of the old and the rise of the new.

After many hours of painstaking work in all weathers, he made a film of the whole project, concluding with the opening ceremony and the consecration of the new church, the first baptism and the first wedding.

Our picture shows Cyril presenting the film reels to the parish priest, Father Danaher, on behalf of the members of the Church of St Woolstan's.

Ray Mallin, *Point Three* correspondent

Barry Templeman's Sponsored Wheel

On 19 September Barry Templeman, a handicapped Toc H volunteer, set off from Peterborough to wheel his way to Stoke Mandeville Hospital. The object of the wheel was to publicise the 'Cresset' community centre being built at Peterborough. The Cresset is an ambitious venture bringing a number of bodies together to co-operate in this scheme, ranging from Peterborough Development Corporation and Cambridgeshire County Council to the National Association of Youth Clubs. Shops, squash courts, a handicapped centre, church, restaurant and library are just a few of the facilities to be found there.

Joe Bugner, European heavy-weight boxing champion, was at the cathedral precincts at 10.30 am to push Barry off. His journey took him through Oundle, Wellingborough, Newport Pagnell, Linslade and Aston Clinton, eventually arriving at Stoke Mandeville Hospital at 3.30 pm six days later. Hospitality on the overnight stops was provided by local Toc H branches.

The Countess Alexander of Tunis met Barry at the hospital and presented him with a gold cigarette lighter from herself and other gifts and greetings from well-wishers. Many people had travelled from Peterborough to cheer Barry on at the finish, including a coachload of handicapped friends. A support module travelled with Barry driven by Chris Neale, Development Officer of the Cresset.



The Countess Alexander of Tunis and Chris Neale congratulate Barry at Stoke Mandeville Hospital
Photo: *Bucks Herald*, Aylesbury

Tubby

December marks the anniversary of the birth and death of Tubby Clayton. A wonderful picture of Tubby was recalled at Central Council when Colin Campbell shared his memories of Tubby at prayer. We reprint Colin's address, hoping that readers will find it valuable when they join together to pray on Tubby's birthday.

'Of all the wealth of memories I have of Tubby, there is one that I cherish most. It is one of Tubby at prayer.

'We were coming back from Poperinge and he had something on his mind. He was convinced that the whole future of Toc H depended upon its ability to transmit to a younger generation the spirit of those who had established it—and that depended upon the establishment of a youth hostel in Ieper, preferably in the ramparts.

He favoured one of the First World War catacombs, now used as a store by the War Graves Commission, and he was intent upon committing to the project anybody and everybody who might further it, including me. Priests, school and college principals, civic officials, war grave commissioners and veterans, all became involved in a multi-lingual marathon of bewilderment and the Town Hall of Ieper could have done little work that morning. Their PRO spent most of it in and out of our car.

In the event, that particular scheme never did come to anything; but that morning was a remarkable demonstration of Tubby's ability to involve people



Tubby at the Old House, during the Hop Fest, September 1973. This photo is believed to be the last taken of Tubby at Poperinge
Photo: Terry Gray

and of their willingness to be involved.

Although we were in danger of missing the boat, physically as well as metaphorically, Tubby insisted on climbing the ramparts to the Lille Gate Cemetery. There, standing at the foot of the Cross, he held a private conversation with his God while his driver and I stood by. Maybe God did most of the listening but Tubby certainly communed with Him, surrounded by those whom he had helped to serve, those who had completed their earthly service 50 years earlier.

It was a very quiet conversation. I heard very little, yet somehow I understood what was being discussed. It was the future of the work that Tubby had been engaged in, that had started so long ago, and the road which lay ahead. There could be no doubt that Tubby got the reassurance he needed—and his orders. I felt and still feel deeply privileged to have been present. When it was all over, the peace and beauty of the place were undisturbed and the residents at rest but in some mysterious fashion I felt that they had participated.

And I began to understand what happened when Jesus took Peter, James and John up the hill to pray and, clothed in divine radiance, talked with Moses and Elijah about the way that lay ahead for Him, the road to Jerusalem and the time of trial. How did the disciples recognise them, I wonder? How did they understand what was being discussed?

They obviously did, for they were later to report what transpired, despite the injunction to say nothing, and they asked at least one trenchant question that received a very illuminating answer. It was obvious, too, that Jesus received the guidance and assurance He needed.

You know what followed. Let me just remind you that when Jesus Himself had apparently departed this life and the dreams of His Kingdom on earth had dissolved, the mass meetings, the miracles, the public acclaim, all seemed things of the past. A group of the members stood on the shore of Tiberias. Peter said, 'I go a-fishing.' They said, 'We too.' They thought the movement they were helping to found had crumbled, that it was back to the workaday world for them. And they seemed to be catching nothing.

That was when Jesus joined them as Moses and Elijah had joined Him. There *was* fishing for them to do, fishing for men—and of such was His Kingdom. Suddenly the waters were teeming with fish and the nets in danger of bursting. Soon after that the real fishing began—and it still goes on today.

I invite you now, just for a few moments, to join with me in silence, to commune and consult with the Moseses and Elijahs that you have known, for you have all known them, the law-givers and the prophets and the great leaders. For we, too, need their radiant certainty about the way ahead for us. There is work for us all to do.

Toc H is unique

**An address given by the new
Director, Ken Prideaux-
Brune, to the Central Council**

'Toc H is unique. The phrase comes off the tongue glibly enough, but this seems a good moment to stop and try to remind ourselves what it is that makes us unique.

'There's nothing unique about the work which we do. Indeed, much of our work is done in close and happy partnership with other organisations, both voluntary and statutory.

'Our work is characterised by a particular approach, an approach based on the belief that the specific service we perform is less important than the relationships we make, that the most important thing we have to offer is our friendship. But this is not unique. Other organisations share this approach, and we should thank God that they do.

'Toc H has always tried to draw together a mixture of people in situations where real meeting can take place, recognising that a fellowship which really means something must be created, not by ignoring the tensions between people, but by recognising and transcending them. Yet even in this we are not unique. And we have to admit, in all penitence, that we are not as good at attracting a real mixture of people as we should be. In many of our branches, in many of our Marks, on many of our projects, we do not have the variety, of age, of occupation, of opinion, that we ought to have. In particular we have done no more than dabble in the field of race relations. If we are serious about breaking down the man-made barriers which divide people

from each other and prevent them recognising their common humanity, then we must surely make the breaking of the colour barrier a very high priority.

'But Toc H is not only compassion. It is not only fellowship. Its uniqueness lies in the recognition that these are the essential starting points for a journey of discovery that will help us to learn what we really are and what the world we live in really is. What purpose lies behind this life? What values are worth fighting for? Toc H is a journey of discovery. And this seeking for new insights, new understanding, is a continuing process. Every new person we meet may teach us something new. Every new member of our group may lead us on to a new dimension.

'The first thing we learn, surely, is the supreme importance of personal relationships. And this involves a revolution in our scale of values. Efficiency remains important because inefficiency can too easily damage a relationship, but we must resist the temptation to elevate efficiency to the status of a god. Success in numerical terms remains important, because unless new members are brought into a group the group's journey of discovery can too easily become merely a quiet snooze in a lay-by; but we must resist the temptation to elevate success to the status of a god. We are not called to be successful, but to be faithful to the insights we have gained, to the truth we have learned. And we are confident that our faithfulness will not be without its reward.¶

The recognition of the supreme importance of personal relationships means that what we do is important, but that what we are is much more important. It's not how busy we are that counts, but the kind of relationships we make. . . .¶

'The trouble is, of course, that when one tries to put all this into words it comes out sounding terribly solemn. And yet I'm quite certain that we have a positive duty to enjoy ourselves. On the simplest level you can spend every spare moment you have visiting the sick but if all you do is to spread gloom and despondency you'd much better stay at home. The great joy of Toc H is its ability to move from deep seriousness to complete hilarity in the same breath, so to speak, without either seeming in the least out of place. I think that one of our most important roles may well be to help people learn how to enjoy themselves, how to live life to the full. And I would see that as a deeply Christian role.

'Toc H is indeed unique. We are privileged to be part of it. Where the journey of discovery will lead us, what we shall become, we cannot know. But we believe that if our hearts and minds remain open we shall become just a little bit more like the kind of person that Jesus was.'

Infinity

Silence
like an empty mountain
leads me on to unclaimed
heights.

Climbing
pinnacles of thought to meet
the unknown shadow
self.

Sue Sutton

Parting Thought

The biggest problem you face at this time of year is to convince the kids that you're Father Christmas and your wife that you aren't.

Jigsaw Library

In the past two years the jigsaw puzzle library, operated by Bournemouth and Christchurch Toc H, has steadily expanded. This library is free and is run for disabled, lonely, aged and house-bound folk.

It all began with a letter to the local press appealing for puzzles. Today the library has nearly 800 puzzles with from 100 to 3,000 pieces, and just over 60 people are on the books. Deliveries are made every three weeks when two puzzles are left. This means that each person looks forward to a regular visitor.

If any branch is interested in operating such a library, help will gladly be given, and some duplicate puzzles are available to begin the stock. Please contact: W R Collins, 8 The Grove, Christchurch BH23 2HA.



A section of the Bournemouth & Christchurch Toc H jigsaw library
Photo: Reg Collins

Five years ago the Toc H branches in the Vale of Conwy District decided to commemorate the name of Edgar Atkinson by creating a memorial fund designed to help young persons in the North Wales area undertaking youth projects for Toc H.

Edgar had been a great influence in Llandudno and for seven years was chairman of the North Wales Area Executive. The appeal was launched with the blessing of this executive and letters were sent out to various individuals and associations with the aimed target of £500. 85 per cent of this target was reached and the total amount was invested for use on Toc H projects.

Over the past three years three girls from the Colwyn Bay District have undertaken nine Toc H projects between them. Five of these projects were financed from the memorial fund, the other four by Colwyn Bay branch. All three girls have now gone on to university and all agree that Toc H has given them the opportunity to gain a wider vision of life.

The projects vary from decorating old folk's houses in East London to working among alcoholics, conservation and children's camps.

Should any young person of 16 years and over wish to undertake a Toc H project next year, information and possible assistance from the fund may be available from Herbert Oates, Secretary, Vale of Conwy District of Toc H, 76 Gwynan Park, Penmaenmawr, Gwynedd LL34 6RP.

■ Harefield branch arranges with their local Angling Society to put on a fishing match annually. The proceeds are given to the branch for their funds. Certainly a new angle on fund raising (ouch!).

■ Harefield branch will be delivering a Christmas card and a hyacinth bulb to about 450 old age pensioners during December. Members have done this for the past five years, at the same time checking that the household has adequate fare for Christmas. So far the only real needs have come from loneliness.

■ Launceston Toc H, a mixed branch of eight active members, this year raised £144 to send a severely handicapped lady and escort on holiday to Jersey.

■ Kirkby Lonsdale ladies were horrified when their bring-and-buy sale clashed with two other events. To their amazement they collected almost £140, far more than last year!

■ Over 200 members and friends in the Reading District attended the final of the third annual quiz at the Baptist Chapel, Newbury. Fleet joint branch won the shield from Newbury branch, last year's winner.

■ Felpham and Bognor Regis branches are joining forces for special activities in Jubilee year. They have already planned a special exhibition in the public library and a floral display in the local park.

Christmas Bulbs

Taunton women's branch decided two years ago that residents in the local geriatric hospital suffered from an overdose of carol singing at Christmas. They cancelled their carol singing and now give bulbs which the patients can enjoy over the months of growth and flowering.

Somerset Reporting

Mid-Somerset District recently gave a camping holiday to 32 patients from Northam Hospital, Bristol, in a pretty Somerset village. Local branches entertained each evening, and on one occasion the 5 Boys' Brigade Yeovil gave a display of music and marching. Four Americans were among the volunteers running this project.

Street and Glastonbury joint branch held their version of 'Petticoat Lane'—now a local institution—and raised a profit of £150, which helps finance a series of Christmas parties for older people in the area.

Invitation to the Arts

That's the purpose of Toc H at Chippenham, who are trying to encourage small groups of people interested in various subjects like music, poetry and painting to get together in the room Toc H has made available. The evenings are not run by experts, and often their greatest value is the discussion which ensues. The arts group is open to anyone who cares to go along.

Barbecue

Harpenden Toc H organised a barbecue at a local pub recently which was attended by more than 200 people and raised nearly £300. This will go towards the appeal being made by the Courage Club of Harpenden for £4,000 to buy a mini-bus for the town's disabled.

Poperinge plans for the Jubilee

We look forward to having with us a delegation of friends from Poperinge for the National Festival in London on 31 May.

The Jubilee of the opening of the Old House will be celebrated in Poperinge and the date of 14/15 June has been fixed for a Jubilee Week-end there. We hope that many members will take the opportunity of joining in the celebrations with Poperinge friends.

- May
2-5 Party from Leicester-shire; leader: The Rev 'Polly' Perkins, 20 Gordon Terrace, Rochester, Kent.
5-12 A week's holiday, combining four days in Bruges with three days in Poperinge; leader: Skegg Blanchard, Toc H HQ, 1 Forrest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT.

- June
13-16 Jubilee Week-end in Poperinge. Applications to International Office, Crutched Friars House, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL.

- Sept
5-8 Party from Kent; leader: The Rev 'Polly' Perkins (as above).
19-26 Party from Scotland spending a week's holiday at the Old House at the time of the Poperinge Hop Festival. Applications to International Office (as above).
19-22 Week-end party to Belgium, for the Hop Festival, probably based in Ieper; leader: Skegg Blanchard, Toc H HQ (as above).

- Oct
11-13 Solihull men's branch; leader: Ken Broadfield, 10 Arnold Grove, Shirley, Solihull.

All inquiries to party leaders.



Members of the Bognor Regis branch at the chalet on the sea-front at Bognor Regis, where handicraft work made by the blind is on sale daily throughout the summer season. In 1974 the amount raised for the blind was over £1,600
Photo: Ron Harrison

Book Worms

Friday is a day of great activity at Ilminster, where the local Toc H branch holds a bookstall in the Market House. It sells second-hand books of all shapes and sizes and, due to generous donations from the public, the stall has expanded threefold. People return to buy week after week.

Ilminster would like to thank all those who have supported them in this successful venture.

DODIS

'Dogs for the Disabled' is a new registered charity which has just completed the training of its first dog. The dog will soon be handed over to a little spastic boy who can get about but cannot support himself. A second dog is starting her preliminary training, and DODIS has had the offer of several dogs from breeders. But DODIS cannot take advantage of these offers as it urgently needs 'puppy-walkers' for the first year to 18 months of the dog's life. This is essential to get the dogs used to traffic before undergoing specialist training to suit the disabled. DODIS has appealed to Toc H for help. If willing puppy-walkers cannot afford all the food necessary for their dog, assistance will be given.

Please contact Mrs P Barrow, 4 Longley Road, Rochester, Kent (Telephone Medway 403107).

LETTERS

'They also serve, who only stay at home and wait'

I often wonder how many wives, husbands and families read *Point Three*. Many, I hope, as I wish to express a humble 'thank you' to them. They are the ones who are tolerant and forbearing in what is being done in the name of Toc H. Especially do I say 'thank you' to the families of staff members. They seem to suffer most. 'The next two week-ends will be away, dear.' No nine-to-five job this; they are at the call (telephone or otherwise) of every member.

Olive Tennant *Norwich*

Under a bushel

I feel very concerned that Toc H should not hide its identity as a Christian movement, but I also appreciate that there are many who support Toc H ideals, but more from a secular approach.

Toc H was started by a man who loved God, so that men may be able to work together in fellowship for each other and for the welfare of others not so well blessed as themselves, as Christ instructed. One of the principles of the constitution is to spread the Gospel without preaching it, and the fourth point of the compass, as printed inside the cover of *Point Three*, states, 'to work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God'.

Now, must Toc H keep its light hidden under a bushel? If it does, the work will be no different from that done by many other good people who are working purely from a secular point of view.

There is no need for Toc H to take on the job of preachers, for which certain people are suited, but it must be audibly made known that Toc H people are holding a love for their God and all God stands for.

Clem Wallace *Bristol*

Home for the elderly

What do other Toc H folk think of a home for the elderly where we Toc H people can retire? My ideal would be one where we can have our own room with our own treasures around us, a sort of bed/sitting-room, but with a communal dining-room and general sitting-room.

I, and I am sure I am not alone, like to eat with people, but do like some privacy to read and write letters.

I would like to think that in the years to come I could go to such a home.

Freda Hurt *Mansfield*

Jock on the Rock

My wife and I spent the summer in Gibraltar, staying at the Toc H hostel. We had such a marvellous time and were so well treated by Jock Brown and his staff that we felt others should know of his work.

He entertained, fed and introduced us to many people on the Rock and at all times ourselves and other travellers were most welcome.

I hope that young people who are intending to travel abroad will take advantage of the hospitality, warmth and kindness that is to be found at the Bastion.

Michael Gonse *Luton, Beds.*

The Old House

The week-end I spent at Talbot House, Poperinge, was the most momentous in my 20 years in Toc H. I could have spent at least a week in the House.

I just felt that perhaps through the medium of *Point Three* more and more good people would take the opportunity of paying a visit and maybe with the grace of God see for themselves the picture portrayed to me.

Arthur E Holt *Hertford*

The Old House

I have a high regard for my friend Brian Dickson, whose letter on the future of the Old House was published in the October issue. Toc H, Poperinge, Talbot House and I owe him far more than he would either admit or recognise. Nevertheless, I think he completely misses the point.

I would agree that we have not succeeded in putting the Old House to full use in the past 10 years, largely because we have not recognised its potential as we have its historic place in our affections; but in many ways it has been used more effectively in the past 10 years for its original purpose of serving God and man than in all the rest of the post-war period.

Its historic interest, whether as a place of pilgrimage or as a tourist attraction (as it is now listed in Belgium), is recognised not only by us but also by the Belgian government, which has committed itself to its preservation. It is no longer regarded by the town as an English house but as a civic asset that is used by them as much as

by us as an instrument of reconciliation. That reconciliation burgeoned 10 years ago when their own Bishop visited the Upper Room and blessed Toc H and Talbot House as instruments fit for God's use.

My admiration and love for Poperinge owe far more to my own ever-growing circle of personal friends there than it does to any sentimental reverence of past associations. I am not alone in this and I intend to follow the example of some of my colleagues in learning Flemish, because I do not think that the efforts to understand one another should be one-sided.

Brian himself has a wealth of friends there and he too must rejoice that here is a Toc H membership that is using its relics to bring young people together, not to worship the past but to build the future, for he has done so much himself in that direction. Because of the deep relationship brought about through the Talbot House link, Poperinge is looking to Toc H to promote even closer contact between its own young people and ours. Whatever happens in Brussels or Westminster, Toc H and Poperinge are helping to create a European community that is not primarily political or economic but is concerned with the reconciliation of man to man that goes hand in hand with the reconciliation of man to God.

That is why they have set up their own committee to organise the celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee of Talbot House next year. That is why the Belgian Friends of Talbot House, as part of a local event, recently opened the House to visitors and, instead of catering for the 50 or 60 people they had expected, had to cope with over 300. The use of Talbot House cannot be measured in bed-nights. What matters is that, just because it is there and theirs as much as ours, more and more people are coming together for creative friendship. You cannot cost that.

And just for the record, we don't own it. It is held by an Anglo-Belgian body which, by law, has a majority of Belgians amongst its members and, by a new law, must record its proceedings in Flemish. The Treasurer of that body is the Town Clerk of Poperinge and the Secretary is his deputy. The subscribing members number more Belgians than British and the town itself contributes a generous annual subsidy.

On a recent visit, three of us were happy to accept an invitation to attend a choral mass in St. John's Church which marked the fiftieth anniversary of the priesthood of Pastor de Brie, one of the legendary figures of Poperinge. It was a wonderful experience. The Town Clerk commented that he was sure we would enjoy it and be able to follow it because, said he, 'It is exactly the same as at All Hallows.' The other comment came from the Dean that afternoon when he said that Pastor de Brie had been very happy to see us there and added, 'I cannot tell you how much I thank you.' That is something which I heartily reciprocate and which would never have happened for me if Talbot House had been simply a place of pilgrimage.

Colin Campbell
SE Regional Staff

Take Note

Gandhi, the Hindu saint, when asked about missionaries in the new India of 1948, said, 'Missionaries will be welcomed in the new India as long as they come in the spirit of Jesus Christ and not in the spirit of Europeans.' He made the following points: '1. All of you Christians, missionaries and all, must

begin to live more like Jesus Christ.
'2. Practise your religion without adulterating it.
'3. Emphasise love and make it your working force.
'4. Study the non-Christian religions more sympathetically.'

B D Brown



The DIAMOND
JUBILEE COMMITTEE
wish you
and every member
a VERY HAPPY
1975

May all your plans
to celebrate
SIXTY YEARS of TOC H
be a success
wherever you are

Please tell us quickly
of the date and place
of your local celebration
for inclusion in the
**Calendar of Jubilee
Events**

talking point

The joy of giving: a theme for jubilation

by The Rev Bob Knight

'The Joy of Giving' was the legend above the doorway of a quayside shop in Looe. 'A clever soft-sell to induce the customers to spend more on consumer durables,' says the imaginative economist. To a man with a religious view on the world, the words describe his experience accurately. Getting may bring pleasure: giving will always bring joy.

On 11 and 12 December in the family of Toc H we will give each other our prayers. There can be no better gift. Towards the end of the month the same joy of giving will bubble up in home, office, factory. Men and women everywhere will feel the spirit of Christmas.

'Bring in the wonder and the
wild;
Bring in the green and fragrant
tree,
Its bough bedecked, and like a
child
Kneel down before the mystery.

Of truths but hardly understood,
As strange as birth and man and
might,
Or green trees in a growing wood,
Or stars that are God's candle-
light.

Out of world's wonder wood
bring in
Life's tree and round it, Mind's
frail child,
Dance, dance and make a holy
din
Before the wonder and the wild.'

Some years ago two children decided to give a new kind of Christmas party: for their enemies. Instead of inviting all their happiest and kindest friends, they invited those who quarrelled and fought with everyone. Their 'Enemy Party' was an unparalleled success. The father of one of their guests called round in the New Year to thank them for inviting his daughter. 'Why did you do it?' he asked, not bothering to conceal his bewilderment. 'Why not?' they replied. 'She likes ice-cream, cake and big red balloons, just like any other girl.' 'Oh yes,' he said, 'but do you know what? Nobody ever asked her to a party before. Why not, I wonder?'

Had he known he could have found one answer to his question in the teachings of Buddha: 'Hate ends not with hate, but with love.'

Another in the words of Jesus: 'Love your enemies.'

In his introduction to the Hindu 'Gita', Juan Mascaro writes: 'Love is "the treasure hid in a field", and this field according

to the Gita is our own soul. Here the treasure is found for which the wise merchant "went and sold all that he had". And contrary to the law of matter where to give more means one has less, in the law of love the more one gives, the more one has.'

When December ends Toc H will enter another jubilee year. Any of us, asked why we are celebrating a declining membership, can quote the example of the branch that had found a job that needed doing. But they were already in debt. They first resolved to do the job, then turned to the question of how they would raise the cash. That is the right order: vision, first; means, second.

Alice Bailey in her lines, 'The Reappearance of the Christ', catches the spirit in which Toc H celebrates Christmas 1974.

'The sons of men are one, I am
one with them.

Let the soul control the outer
form and life and all events
And bring to light the love that
underlies the happenings of
the time.

Let visions come and insight
Let the future stand revealed
Let inner union demonstrate
and outer cleavages be gone
Let love prevail; let all men love.'

References

'Bring in the Wonder' by James D Freeman. Published in *Daily Word*, December 1972.

The Bhagavad Gita, Penguin Classics. Translated by J Mascaro, 1962.

'The sons of men are one', quoted in *Yours is the Glory*, page 30.

'The Reappearance of the Christ' by Alice Bailey.

news point

A light goes out

The light of Congleton Toc H, which has burned for so many years, has finally been extinguished. Like many other small Toc H branches they have worked quietly in their neighbourhood extending practical help to the deaf, blind and mentally subnormal. They have been beset by money-raising problems and the new increased rate demands made it impossible for them to carry on their one-room branch headquarters any longer.

It is worth remembering that as a registered charity Toc H branches can claim up to 50 per cent reductions in rates under Section 40 of the General Rate Act 1967. If a branch finds difficulty about obtaining relief or requires any further information, the Finance Secretary at Wendover will be happy to help.

Wasing summer camp

A camping holiday for 24 underprivileged children from the Basingstoke area was arranged by the Abingdon and Reading Districts. The camp was held at Wasing Place, Aldermaston, by kind permission of Sir William Mount. There were 12 volunteers from as far afield as France and Holland. The Army loaned a good deal of equipment, and local firms and schools also helped. Branches in the locality were involved in arranging outings, cooking meals and helping to finance the venture.

The party went on a trip up the Kennet Canal, spent a day at the coast and took an excursion to Windsor Safari Park.

Come and see

'This should be the answer when people ask about Toc H,' said Colin Campbell talking to Hemel Hempstead branch on the future of the Movement. He told them, 'We are fishers of men, not trawlers. Fishing is a delicate business.'

Colin emphasised that before getting new members we must be sure what we want them for. Our chief job is to 'build bridges' to bring people together. Lack of love is at the root of many problems nowadays. It is up to Toc H to provide a fellowship stronger than the forces that are pushing people apart.

'Modern man has taken a lot out of life in terms of love and human relationships,' said Colin. 'He has met a lot of his material needs but has also created a lot of loneliness. Every time we do a job we should be looking out for someone to do it with us.'

'We must reach out, not just to preserve what we have. Our efforts are never wasted; someone's whole life can be changed by a person he meets.'

In the words of Tubby Clayton: 'Don't try to get people into Toc H, but sweat blood to get Toc H into people.'

Overseas News

Greta Lynn
International Secretary

Toc H in Umtali scored a first when their hospital broadcasting service claimed front-page news in the local press.

Valparaiso branch in Chile has adopted a little girl in a home for destitute children. Members also knit garments for 91 other children and take packets of food for them. Richmond women's branch has a personal link with Valparaiso through one of the

Chilean members, Mrs Chita Murdoch, who recently spent 18 months in London and attended meetings at the Richmond branch.

A report recently came in from a lone unit in South Africa, Lesotho. The unit was first formed in 1968 and it worked mainly with lepers. Over the years the multiracial membership has changed many times but the mixture is as good as ever. A Christmas party is held every year at the Botsabela Leper Settlement, and the last one was so successful, with many friends helping and contributing cakes, that a regular monthly 'cake day' is now held to raise funds. This also provides a necessary service in Nasaru as there is only one confectionery shop. This new income enables the unit to provide nine food parcels per month to the needy.

The unit, who have now enrolled 10 members and two probationers, wish to be remembered in our prayers, 'that our members may remain constant in their endeavours, not losing heart, and that the work we do may be for His Kingdom through our wills'.

News from Poperinge

In September the town of Poperinge held a 'Fancy Fair' when local shopkeepers and organisations displayed their goods on stalls in the street. Toc H friends in Poperinge decided to hold an open day at the Old House and advertised it in the local press. They had anticipated that a few of the visitors to the town might like to look around the House and discover something of its history and purpose, but they were taken by surprise when the number of visitors far exceeded their hopes, with more than 200 people signing the visitors' book. Tea was served and our Belgian members acted as guides. Many people visited the Upper Room, where everything was explained in Flemish.

Teachings of BUDDHISM

From the Buddhist society

The teachings of Buddhism are many and varied. They all lead to a state which Buddhists call 'Enlightenment'. There are many, many methods by which we might attain this state, and if we gather together all of these different methods, then this is Buddhism.

Buddhism works with the mind. In our everyday lives we act and behave according to our state of mind. If our minds are restless, then perhaps we will find that we are pacing up and down a room or perhaps drumming our fingers on a table. Because our mind cannot relax, we find that our body cannot. On the other hand, we may find that we are in a calm, quiet state of mind, in which case we would probably find ourselves sitting quite contentedly, doing whatever we have to do. Because our mind is calm and relaxed, we are physically calm and relaxed.

There are two ways in which our mind can work. There is what we can call the 'reactive mind' and the 'creative mind'. These terms are not traditional Buddhist terms but perhaps we can more easily understand them than the ancient Indian words, which are difficult to translate satisfactorily. The 'reactive mind' is the mind that we normally experience. It is a mind which reacts to any experience we have; in other words, it behaves according to habits, in a way that it is used to. Its behaviour is predictable because there is a pattern that it always follows. For instance, we see an advertisement that attracts us, so that we end up buying whatever was advertised.

Unawareness is the main characteristic of the 'reactive mind', but the opposite is true of the 'creative mind'. The 'creative mind' operates with absolute awareness; it is not mechanical but spontaneous. It responds to each experience that comes in a fresh way, not according to a habitual pattern. When we work with the 'creative mind', we may find ourselves doing something we have done many times, but because we are fully aware of what we are doing, we begin to experience it differently. We are less imprisoned by our habits and routines and we begin to find our true originality and individuality.¶

One of the most important methods of developing awareness is through meditation. By concentrating our minds through the practice of meditation, we become less distracted, we begin to experience things more fully. There are many simple ways in which we may try to become more aware of ourselves. We can become attentive to the way we are sitting at this moment, for instance. We can take our minds to the different physical sensations we feel in different parts of the body, we can take our minds to the breath. We are always breathing, but we are usually unaware of the process. It is not enough just to be aware of ourselves, we must also try to be aware of others, to try to be sympathetic towards them and to be aware of their needs as well as our own.

One of the precepts which Buddhists undertake to live by is to *abstain from harming any other living being*. These precepts are not commandments; we are simply advised to hold to the precept in so far as we are able. If we refrain from harming others, it means we are concerned for them. We are aware that they too can suffer from an unkind deed.

There are five precepts in all which we try to observe. We undertake to *abstain from 'taking the not given'*. This does not just mean stealing. We tend to take things for granted and we assume that we have a right to certain things, regardless of whether they have actually been offered to us; consequently we may demand and expect them. The third precept is '*abstention from sexual misconduct*'. The thing to remember with all the precepts is that we are trying to avoid causing harm, and this includes harm to ourselves. The fourth precept is '*abstention from false speech*'. False speech misleads ourselves as well as others, and if we are searching for truth, then anything which is false should be discarded. The fifth and last precept is '*abstention from intoxicants*'. Intoxication, whatever the cause, means that we have lost ourselves to something, we have lost our self-awareness, and this is the very thing we are trying to develop.

It is important to realise that these precepts are not a set of unbending rules that we have to stick to rigidly. It is important to understand that there is an underlying spirit of harmlessness, which we try to bring to all our actions. If we manage to do this, we may find that we live entirely within the precepts.

If we can grasp for ourselves the spirit of the teaching in a general way; if we have a feeling for Buddhism, then we will practise it; but if we are simply full of facts that have no meaning for us, then it will not be possible to do so.

Readers of *Point Three* who would like to know more about Buddhist teachings, or about the work of The Buddhist Society, are invited to write to the General Secretary, The Buddhist Society, 58 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1PH (01-828 1313), for the booklet and other literature. Toc H branches requiring speakers on aspects of Buddhism may like to be put in touch with their nearest Buddhist group, of which there are now nearly 40, covering most of the British Isles.

What's in a name?

The Brothers' House is well known in the Kennington Park Road, not least to the local postmen who not infrequently are called upon to exercise powers of intuition that a Sherlock Holmes might envy. The Honorary Warden is the possessor of a fine collection of envelopes that has grown over the years, comprising many splendid specimens of the letter-writer's mis-directed art. One particularly good example which reached the Brothers' House, correctly and without delay, was addressed simply: 'The Evangelists, Kennington'. One, addressed to 'Tobacco House Hostel', was perhaps the innocent interpretation of a telephone directory by a young typist who had been taught never to use abbreviations.

'R F C Toch Esq' was passed to the Toc H London Rugger Club; but one addressed to 'The Broker's House' turned out to be for the Warden and he kept it. 'Brother Hay's Toc Organisation' was sent on (correctly, as it turned out) by Toc H Headquarters; and the Brothers' House in turn passed on to Headquarters a missive addressed to 'The Advertising Manager, Messrs H Toc (Inc)'.

Each year, just before Christmas, a letter arrives from Eire addressed to 'The Reverend Superior, The Brothers' House, Kennington,' and this, quite properly, is handed over to the Chapel Warden for attention. He, poor fellow, at first had thoughts of a prize in the Irish Sweep, but now knows that it is no more than a cyclostyled appeal for a subscription to a Catholic newspaper.

The crowning injustice of all, though, was a letter which was left for the Hon Warden to open on his return from holiday. It was addressed simply to 'Tosh, The Brothers' House'.

(From the London Toc H Broad-sheet, c. 1964.)

Obituary

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In May: David Livingston Thompson (Jamaica).

In July: Brig Alan H Morton (South Western Area).

In August: Rev Allan N S Holbrook (Henstridge), Lancelot Warren (Macdonald, Australia).

In September: Arnold Aspden (Great Harwood), Albert Carter (Walton), John Donkin (Salisbury, Rhodesia), Henry Holgate (Clitheroe), Alice Jerman (South Devon), Charles W Norwood (Ashford), Doris Tallon (Preston), James M Watson (Ramsgate).

In October: Phyllis M Campbell (Scotland Area), Alexander C Edwards (North London Area), Arthur Hambridge (Shavington), Will and Stella Hubbard (Camberwell & Dulwich), Arthur G Maynard (Gravesend), Anne C Moffat (Scotland Area), Philip D Ridley (Porlock), Alfred J Seymour (Surrey Area).

We give thanks for their lives.

Welcome Point

The following branches elected new members during October:

- 5—Crewkerne (j) group, Rishton (w).
- 3—Bletchley (w), Southill (w), South Petherton (m).
- 2—Acton & Garden Village (m), Conway (m), Harlow (j) group, Ilford & Seven Kings (w), Jedburgh (m), South Teesside (j) group, Stony Stratford & Wolverton (w).
- 1—Acklam (w), Aylsham (m), Carshalton (m), Central, Central Overseas, Chalfonts (w), Epsom (j), Evesham (w), Fakenham (m), Hackney (j), Hartley Wintney (w), Horwich (m), Llanarmon-yn-Ial (m), Margate (w), Moseley (j), Northiam (m), Oldham (w), Pant (j), Porlock (m), St John's, Tunbridge Wells (w), Strode Park & Herne Bay (m), Trimley (w).

We extend a warm welcome to 55 new members.



picture point



Andrew Broad, 16-year-old Police Cadet, was selected to represent Cheshire at the National Association of Boys' Clubs' Week. Andrew is a member of the Toc H Boys' Club in Shavington and will take with him a message of goodwill to the Duchess of Gloucester. He was chosen in recognition of his outstanding service to the club
Photo: *Chester Chronicle*

Toc H members Susan Goodall and David Finch are about to leave for a trip to Poperinga with members of the Cripplecrafft Home in Herne
Photo: *Kentish Gazette*



Two Belgian volunteers over here on a 10-day visit took part in a Toc H project at Greathouse Cheshire Home, where they are helping patients and working in the garden
Photo: *Bath & Evening Chronicle*



Happy Christmas from the Mini-Minstrels taking part in a Toc H concert at the Corn Exchange, Brigg
Photo: *Barton Star*



This mini-bus was recently given to the Hazelbury Open Air School by five local Edmonton organisations including Toc H. The bus will be used to give outings, normally beyond the school's means. Sitting in the bus is headmaster Norman Jones
Photo: *Carleton Photographic*



Some of the 30 volunteers who helped to run a playgroup for mentally handicapped children in Hitchin. The idea came from Toc H Hitchin branch and has proved to be a highly successful community venture
Photo: *Hitchin Gazette*



The children who attended the Toc H children's camp at Ulverston this summer were presented with souvenir mugs from the Chairman of Ulverston Council, Councillor W Cubin



Time for a cuppa while two volunteers carry on decorating. Part of the Slough Voluntary Service scheme in which Toc H is playing a large part
Photo: *Slough Observer*

Small advertisements

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the first of the month. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p) to *Point Three* magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT. Telephone 0296-623911.

Housekeeper required for Loughton area to help in house and act as companion for wife. Living in could be considered. Please contact: A Ashby, 'Milestones', 27 High Road, Loughton, Essex. Tel. 508 7226.

Appeals Organisers required (male or female) by well-known charity owing to rapid expansion. Duties include organising good-quality clothing and cash collections, mainly through the churches. Vacancies in London NW, London NE, South Essex, North Norfolk and Shropshire. Also for Mobile Appeals Organisers based on London, prepared to travel country. Salaried positions with car or car allowance. Please contact John Cole, Help the Aged, 8/10 Denman Street, London W1A 2AP, quoting ref. J2, or tel. 01-439 4455, Mondays or Thursdays 12 noon-2 pm.

Warden Manor, set in unspoilt country overlooking sea. Visit this historic manor house in 1975. Toc H fellowship. Open Easter (27 March-1 April), Spring Bank Holiday (23-27 May) and summer season (5 July-13 Sept). Contact John Cole, Warden Manor, Eastchurch, Nr Sheerness, Kent.



Bruges, Belgium. Hotel Jacobs (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city with in easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel.

Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, HOTEL JACOBS, Balicestraat 1, Bruges 8000. Telephone: (050) 398 31/32.

Audio-Visual Technician / Librarian

Toc H is offering an exciting opportunity for a young man or woman to initiate and develop a new AV resource centre in Wendover, Buckinghamshire.

The successful applicant would be responsible for maintaining tape slide equipment and for creating a 35 mm colour slide and black-and-white photo library to service all areas of communications in the Movement.

Starting salary: between £1,600 and £1,800 dependent on experience and qualifications.

Apply to the General Secretary, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Happy Christmas with Point Three

Does your local church know about Toc H?

Point Three helps to get your message across.

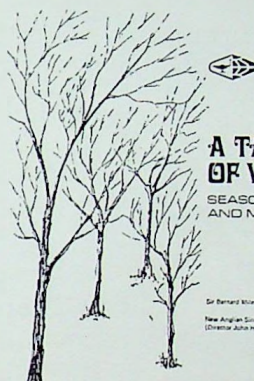
Ask your branch to buy an extra copy for your church.

Order now from Toc H Publications Dept.

1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Annual subscription: 85p

Cheques/PO payable to 'Toc H' please.



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SEASONAL WORDS
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Sir Bernard Miles
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A recording of seasonal words and music by John Hull

featuring

Sir Bernard Miles and the New Anglian Singers

Price 50p from

**Publications Dept, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover
Bucks HP22 6BT**

Next year is Jubilee Year

Time you were wearing the New Symbol



Buy a Toc H tie

All-over pattern orange symbol and centres picked out in white.
Choice of background shades from maroon, black, green, dark blue.
Crimplene only.

Please state colour clearly on all orders, giving one acceptable alternative.

Some Toc H scarves and ties with Lamp design still available.

Available from the Toc H official outfitters:

C R Thompson Ltd

41 Railway Approach, London Bridge SE1 9ST

Telephone: 01-407 2486

(two minutes from London Bridge Underground and main line stations)

Also from:

The Publications Dept

1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT

Telephone: Wendover 623911

Please note

Owing to prices changing so quickly, members are requested to apply for prices before ordering.